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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,482	07/16/2003	Detlef Cordts	331.1045	9078

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DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC
485 SEVENTH AVENUE, 14TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10018

EXAMINER

BINDA, GREGORY JOHN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,482

Applicant(s)

CORDTS ET AL.

Examiner

Greg Binda

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11 and 13-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11 and 13-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20041213</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment filed December 13, 2004 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: "One of the joints is shown as a spherical bearing" at paragraph 22 and Fig. 4. No where in the original disclosure is there a mention of a coupling having just one spherical bearing.

Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

3. The amendment filed December 13, 2004 is objected to because the claim listing the status indicator of claim 12 is "currently amended" but no text follows and in the remarks the claim is identified at least twice as cancelled.

Drawings

4. The drawings filed December 13, 2004 are objected to as failing to comply 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1) because Fig. 4 includes reference numerals with inverted commas.

5. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing

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sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because:
 - a. Paragraph 18 was amended to describe the driving machine as a shaft or a wheel hub, but that contradicts the original disclosure at paragraph 21 where the driving machine is described as a gear. How can a driving machine that is a gear be construed to be a shaft or a wheel hub?
 - b. In the detailed description there is no mention of how the “elastomer layers 20” at page 4, line 12 are connected to the other parts of the disclosed invention.

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c. Page 5, line 12 was amended to include the description -- bearing '10' --.

However, previously the bearings were identified by numeral 17 and numeral 10 was used to identify a joint.

7. The specification is objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75(d)(1) because the detailed description fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the following claimed subject matter:

- a. Claim 1, line 9 and claim 6: "at least three identical articulated levers". No less than four levers are described at page 4, line 5.
- b. Claim 2, lines 2 & 3: "at least three identical articulated second levers"
- c. Claim 6: "each corresponding axial plane passes through a center of two of the articulated levers"
- d. Claim 16: all limitations therein

8. Applicant stated in the amendment filed December 13, 2004 that the specification objections in item 7 above should be withdrawn because the noted claim limitations are mentioned in the Summary of the Invention. However, those features are not described in the detail description of the invention as required under 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75(d). A summary is not a substitute for a detailed description as is clearly stipulated in 37 CFR 1.73 where it is stated that a summary "should precede the detailed description", not replace it.

Claim Objections

9. Claim 18 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.
10. Claims 14 & 16 are objected to because it recites the limitation "the bearing". Are each of the bearings included with the joints of claim 13 supposed to be covered by the limitation "the bearing"?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

11. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

12. Claims 11 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of claims 11 & 18 recites the limitation "the at least one bearing journal". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. Claims 1 & 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 92 02 412.2. According to applicant's explanation of relevance, this reference shows or suggest all the limitations of the claims. See the European search report provided with the information disclosure statement filed December 13, 2004.

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14. Claims 1-7, 11 & 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gerard, EP 0 592 297. Fig. 12 shows a coupling comprising an intermediate shaft 50 with a shaft axis joined at each end by articulated lever couplings to driving and driven shaft members. Figs. 1-6 shows each shaft is provided with a connecting flange 20 that integrally includes at least three radially and axially projecting claw 22, 23 having a plurality of conical bearing journals 24. Figs. 7-11 show that the pairs bearing journals 24 are connected by elastic lever couplings 30 so that the joint axis of each lever are disposed perpendicular to the shaft axis.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 11 & 13-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in item 12 above. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

17. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on December 13, 2004 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in items 13 & 14. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

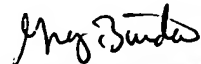
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18. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Binda whose telephone number is (703) 305-2869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 am to 7:00 pm with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


GREGORY J. BINDA
PRIMARY EXAMINER